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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 October 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Security Conditions in Western Pacific Countries To Be Visited by the President

THAILAND

1. Various reports on the existence of Vietnamese "assassination" or "suicide" teams possibly planning physical harm to President Johnson are still being circulated in Bangkok. It now develops, however, that the original report of a five-man Vietnamese assassination team was received by Thai military security authorities prior to announcement of the President's planned visit to Thailand. The Thais subsequently and without corroborating information assumed and reported that the President was the target. It is possible that the series of reports stems from a basic rumor of Vietnamese Communist intent to commit some violent action, and that this has been embellished by a variety of sources. However, US and Thai officials are making every effort to investigate all these allegations to determine what elements of truth they may contain.

2. There is another report of a Communist-inspired assassination plot against the President. This report emanates from [redacted] who

NOTE: This memorandum is one in a series prepared by CIA concerning security conditions in those countries to be visited by President Johnson. It was produced by the Office of Current Intelligence and coordinated with the Office of National Estimates and the clandestine services.

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27 October 1966

No. 1617/66

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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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62-HQ-111200 Section 3 serial 252 FDPS pages 207-212

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last year apparently fabricated reports on assassination plots against former ambassador Taylor and Thai Prime Minister Thanom. His latest information is being checked.

3. Deputy Prime Minister Praphat has told a US official that he is providing maximum security for the President, although he still does not anticipate any trouble. Praphat is deploying two Thai Army divisions as well as thousands of police in the Bangkok area to assist in security arrangements. Fire trucks with high-pressure hoses will be positioned along motorcade routes should the large crowds, expected to turn out to see the President, get out of hand.

MALAYSIA

4. As of 26 October a total of 78 leftist organizers had been arrested in the security sweep initiated early on 25 October. The Special Branch director estimates that these include about 80 percent of the known organizers in the Kuala Lumpur area. Reports of planned leftist demonstrations continue, but the plans were largely initiated prior to the 25 October sweep and most will probably be curtailed, if not canceled, as a result of the arrests. On 26 October the Malaysian Police inspector general gave a detailed briefing to US security representatives on measures to be taken in connection with the President's visit. These measures include the posting of 4,030 police in the Kuala Lumpur area and the deployment of three military companies (130-140 men each) organized into riot control formations. The US representatives have voiced satisfaction with these plans and confidence in the security forces.

5. In Singapore, opposition political, labor, and student elements continue their anti-US protests and their plans for demonstrations to coincide with the President's visit to Kuala Lumpur. As outdoor rallies have been declared illegal, organized demonstrations apparently will be restricted to union

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halls and other indoor locations, although hit-and-run attacks against US properties cannot be discounted.

SOUTH KOREA

6. There are no significant new developments in the Korean security situation.

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